GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4602
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
CATERPILLARS DESTROYED SOYABEAN CROP IN M.P.
Ahmad Shri Ateeq

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Caterpillars have destroyed the soyabean crop in Madhya Pradesh and now they are attacking human beings;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to save the crops from the menace of Caterpillars in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) ths steps taken by the Government to initiate action against the persons selling fake insecticides and to provide compensation to the farmers whose crops have been destroyed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that during Kharif 2004, soyabean crop in an estimated area of 9,81,167 hectares was affected by caterpillars out of which the crop in 1,37,228 hectares was damaged by more than 50%. No reports of human beings being attacked by caterpillars were received.

(b) The State Government was advised to adopt recommended IPM package of practices to save the crops from the menace of caterpillars and unutilise funds allocated under the Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management Scheme for controlling this pest.

(c) Farmers whose crops were affected by infestation by caterpillars can avail of compensation under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. The State Government was advised to initiate action as per the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 against the persons involved in manufacturing/selling fake pesticides.